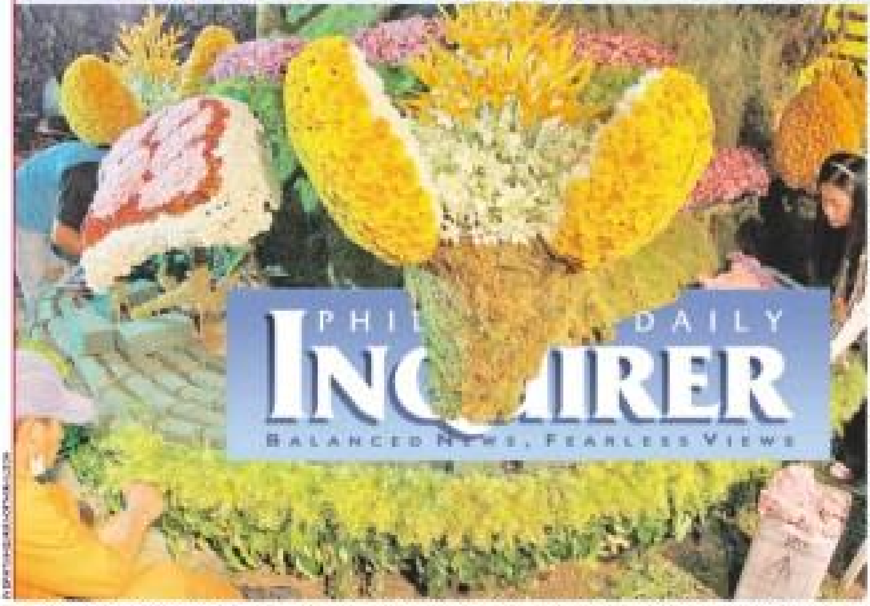
Saturday, February 28, 2009 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 82 P18 website: www.inquirer.net



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHEN CITY OF PINES IS IN FLOWER "Panagbenga" means "a season of blooming" in the Kankanay dialect, and is right up there in the calendar of the country's many splendored fiestas. Also known as the Baguio Flower Festival, its 2009 edition kicks off today with the Grand parades and dancers in the streets arrayed in the chaotic colors of flowers. The parade of floral floats—the Baguio Country Club's "Grand Entrance" in photo—highlight the five-week fest that started on Feb. 1.

US raps RP for failure to stop graft

By Nikko Dizon and TJ Burgonio

CORRUPTION REMAINS RAMPANT IN the Arroyo administration primarily because of its failure to enforce laws penalizing crooked officials and its withholding of information from public inquiries into questionable government transactions, according to the US State Department.

In its "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices in 2008," which was released on Wednesday, the US State Department said the culture of corruption in government

US RAPS/A4

American combat troops out of Iraq by Aug. 31, 2010

WASHINGTON—SIX YEARS AFTER US-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein, President Barack Obama was set to declare on Friday (Saturday in Manila) that the United States would end its bloody and costly combat mission in Iraq by August 2010.

But a dramatic force reduction was not expected until after Iraq's national elections at the end of this year, senior administration officials said.

AMERICAN/A4

Sulu captives cry for help

House defers final vote on right of reply

By Gil C. Cabacungan and TJ Burgonio

SPEAKER PROSPERO NOGRALES HAS decided to defer the final plenary vote in the House of Representatives on the right of reply bill pending further dialogue with media groups that see the measure as a blow to press freedom.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has threatened to veto any bill curbing media freedoms, and Malacañang yesterday reiterated its strong opposition to any such measure, saying "freedom is better abused than curtailed."

Nograles said that while a "House survey shows an overwhelming majority supports the bill," its approval might take a little more time as there was need for more consultations to ensure the bill would not trample on the freedoms of the press and expression.

"I would like to conduct more dialog with the stakeholders before recommend-

HOUSE/A11



RESTORING OLD GLORY President Arroyo, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and ex-tourism head, Gemma Cruz (behind the President) inspect the ongoing overhauling of the historic art deco-styled Metropolitan Theater, which had been in various stages of neglect and decay. In its prime, the theater was the repository of the glory of Filipino arts and culture.

'It's become very hard, truly painful'

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

THE FILIPINO ENGINEER held captive by Abu Sayyaf bandits in the mountains of Indanan, Sulu, along with her two colleagues in the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has pleaded for help to end their suffering.

Mary Jean Lacaba was allowed by her captors to speak on the phone with this reporter on the afternoon of Feb. 25. Her voice was low and trembling, and she spoke in short sentences, in a mix of Filipino and English.

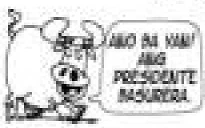
Lacaba relayed the same message over and over again, directed at the government or anyone else working on their release: She and her colleagues need help. They still have no idea what the Abu Sayyaf wants in exchange for their freedom.

"Please tell them, if possible, if they can, to quicken the process. It has become very hard and truly painful. Physically and emotionally, it's really very, very hard," she said.

With Andreas Notter of Switzerland and Eugenio Vagni of Italy, Lacaba was abducted by gunmen in Jolo, Sulu, on Jan. 15, just after they finished inspecting water facilities in the Jolo jail.

It was only much later that the Abu

SULU/A6



Friday 'green day' for GMA

By TJ Burgonio

FRIDAY IS WHEN THE PRESIDENT takes out the garbage.

Every Friday, President Macapagal-Arroyo will go around Metro Manila and the countryside to spread the gospel of clean, carbon-free environment among government officials.

Part of her job, she said, was to make sure that all government agencies "across the board" have their own solid waste management facilities.

FRIDAY/A11

Asean rights body historic first but lacks clout

CHA-AM, THAILAND—SOUTHEAST Asian officials yesterday praised the creation of a regional human rights body as a historic first step toward confronting abuses, but the body will lack the power to investigate or punish violators like military-ruled Burma (Myanmar).

A confidential document obtained by the Associated Press says the rights body, which the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) hopes to form later this year, would "promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms" in the region but will abide by the bloc's bedrock policy of not interfering in members' internal affairs.

The document, which outlines the proposed powers of the future rights body, falls short of key demands voiced by international human rights groups, which say the body will have limited effectiveness unless it can impose sanctions or expel countries that violate the rights of their own citizens.

ASEAN/A11

Woman in Davao delivers 'hermaphrodite' twins

By Orlando B. Dinoy
Inquirer Mindanao

MALITA, DAVAO DEL SUR—TWINS, each with male and female genitals, were born to a 25-year-old mother here on Tuesday.

Glory Jean Ferrer, the twins' mother, gave birth to the babies at the Malita district hospital at 7 a.m., said its resident physician, Dr. Paulito Montero.

According to Montero, the babies are hermaphrodites because they each have male and female reproductive organs.

He said one of the babies was cov-

WOMAN/A9



FISH (SAFETY) NET Tuna exported to Japan, US and Europe arrive at the GenSan port on Monday. The Congress recently passed the baselines bill that defines and protects its continental shelf which will favorably secure its vast fishing industry.

Garcias on condo shopping spree in NY; 2 sons' extradition sought; wife still at large

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

NOW THAT THEY KNOW WHERE TO find them, state prosecutors said they would seek the extradition of the two sons of former military comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia who were arrested in the United States two days ago.

"This is a welcome development. We now have information about the whereabouts of the two," said Deputy Special Prosecutor Jesus Micael.

Garcia, his wife and sons have been charged with plunder for allegedly

GARCIAS/A11

Second FrontPage



SUERTRES

FOUR DIGIT

6 5 1 6 1 0 6

MEGALOTTO 6/45

1 11 16 19 22 34

P6,689,725.20

Namfrel hits solons on automation

WHY ARE LAWMAKERS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENtatives afraid of automating the 2010 elections?

Newsbriefs

Terror threat on Saudia airlines

Psychological care for soldiers

MMDA hit over 'hate' posters

5 jail officers fail drug tests

Senate OFW probe welcomed

BSP taps The Firm vs Legacy

Trial reminds him of martial law, says Joker

Appeals court orders freeze of prosecutor's bank accounts

GMA heads for Thailand

Concert for Nolyn Cabahug



TOYS
STATIONERY
APPAREL
SHOES
BABY BASICS
BAGS & ACCESSORIES
HEALTH & BEAUTY
HOME FURNISHINGS
3 day sale
Feb. 27, 28 & Mar. 1
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
up to 50% off great selections
LAS PIÑAS • FAIRVIEW
PAMPANGA • BACOLOD
PLUS!
Enjoy
5% REBATE
when you use your
BDO CREDIT CARD
Get a chance to
WIN 1 of 40
NEO
Laptops
PLUS
DSL
with FREE 3 months connection
Every P500 purchase gives you the chance to win.
10 winners per branch
Get 0%
INTEREST
on 3 months installment
with a minimum P5,000 purchase

Republic of the Philippines

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL

RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9507 ENTITLED AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SOCIALIZED AND LOW-COST HOUSING LOAN RESTRUCTURING AND CONDONATION PROGRAM, PROVIDING THE MECHANISMS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

[illegible]

IN THE KNOW: The term 'intersexual' is preferred



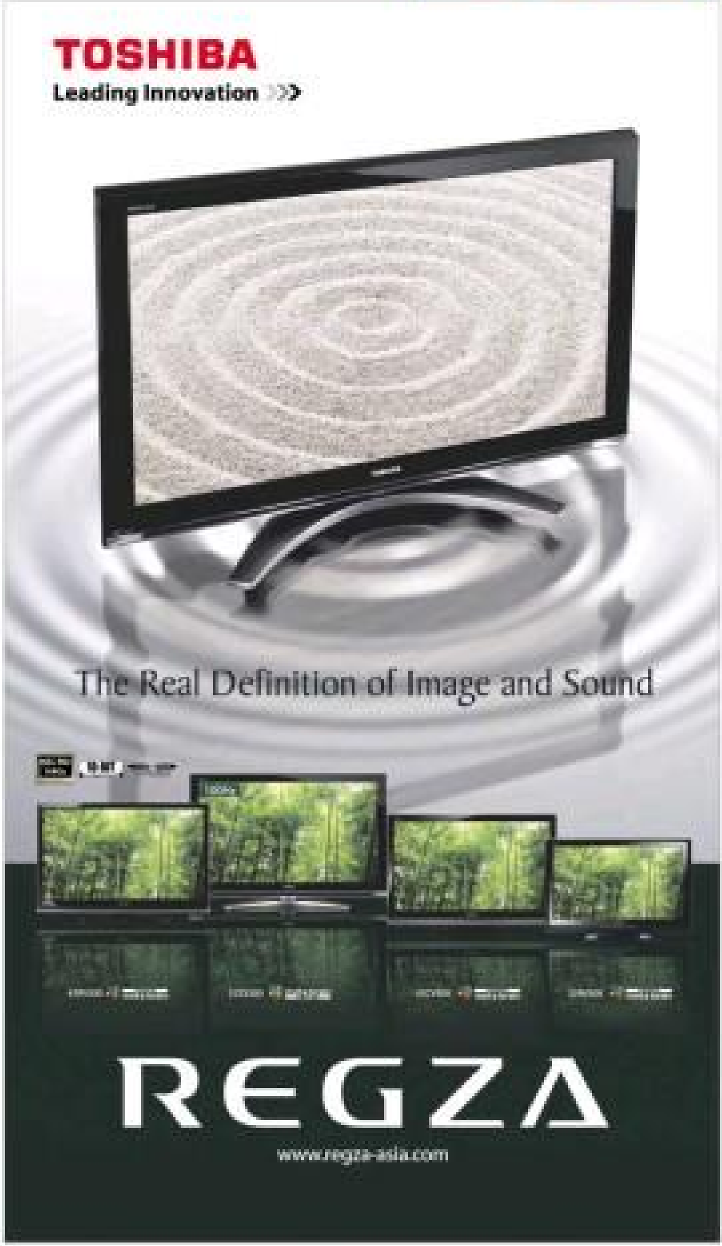


Woman in Davao ...



Remedial surgery

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Sulu captives cry for help: Please tell gov't to hurry

No contact

No ransom demand

Military pullout first

American combat ...

50K soldiers to stay

Pace of withdrawal

Threefold mission

Elections could raise tensions

Republicans skeptical

US-Iraq agreement

Puno says 'nothing new' in US graft report

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Reform program

Criticisms welcome

US raps RP for failure to stop graft

Gonzalez: It's like WB raps, what's the basis?

Right to information

Obama's policy

Extrajudicial killings

SC efforts noted

Political motivation

Common violations

Proverbial glass

CHR works independently

Military effort

Last in line not so bad for this war vet

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FOR 86-YEAR-OLD WAR VETERan Jose Manglicmot, being at the end of the line is not necessarily a bad thing.

Suffering pain for years from his arthritic knees, Manglicmot just made it on the very last day to claim his veteran's benefits from United States Veterans Affairs staff who have been processing and paying out claims from eligible war veterans at the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office at Camp Aguinaldo.

Manglicmot was among the few luckier [illegible] who thought it wise to go to the PVAO yesterday rather than join the surge of applicants last week who were entitled to claim the lump-sum payment from the United States government.

"I came here only now because I was busy with my farm and I knew that many would be coming here even if they are not in the list of those who are eligible to receive payment," said Manglicmot, who answered routine questions as he [illegible] hear that well anymore.

Pay-outs

The long-awaited compensation for Filipinos who served alongside American soldiers during World War II to defend the Philippines from the Japanese invasion 63 years ago, was included in US President Barack Obama's $789-billion stimulus package for the US economy. In all, the US would be paying $198 million to the Filipino veterans.

The USVA started the pay-outs at the PVAO and its field offices last week. Under the stimulus bill, the US would award a one-time payment of $15,000 to those Filipino veterans who are now US citizens and $9,000 to non-citizens. Manglicmot is with the latter group.

Unlike his fellow veterans who had to endure the long queues and the heat at the PVAO, Manglicmot had a relatively hassle-free time yesterday.

Having come alone with only his cane for company, he sat comfortably in an almost empty hall as he waited his turn with the US VA representatives.

Defense Undersecretary for veterans affairs Ernesto Carolina yesterday said USVA Director Jose Bielly had announced that a "second cycle" of claims processing would be scheduled in the coming weeks.

"They will extend the processing but the schedule will depend on the volume of the applicants," Carolina said.

Spillover

If there was a "spillover" of more than 500 applicants at the PVAO yesterday, the USVA would continue receiving claims on Monday, Carolina said.

"If there are only a handful of them, the USVA will wait for them to accumulate," he said, citing the shortage of USVA staff.

But other eligible claimants have the option to just mail their completed application form and pertinent documentation of their service with the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) to the US Embassy in Manila. They would not have to undergo an interview.

"The USVA has thought of a way of validating applications without a veteran needing to go through strenuous procedures. This is to fast-track the process," said Carolina.

As of yesterday, close to 5,000 claims outside Manila have been processed out of the more than 13,000 applicants. In Manila, an estimated 5,000 claims have been processed, said Carolina.

INQUIRER

OPINION

Suspicious shootouts

EDITORIAL



Morality and modernity

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

P200-B down the drain?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

Philippine opinion polling in 1984-86

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangahas

Organizing for school reform

COMMENTARY

Butch Hernandez

'Equally objectionable to all parties'

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.

Lucid dreams

YOUNG BLOOD

Arnold Lindres C. Lan

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

THEY SAID

Fit to be killed

More workdays for Congress

LETTERS

Informal settlers just being used by politicians

Consumer complaint addressed—Maynilad

IPP contracts lessen impact of Napocor rate hike

INQUIRER Visayas



A haven for kids

SHE WEPT AS PAIN RIPPED through her back as her uncle beat her.

[illegible]

A different person

[illegible]

Donations

[illegible]

Across the NATION

53,000 jobs seen in agri projects

TIGAON, CAMARINES SUR—THE GOVERNMENT expects to generate at least 53,000 jobs out of a project to build at least 2,000 kilometers of farm-to-market roads nationwide, an official said Wednesday at the launching of a road project here.

Agriculture is key

Ideal locations



BAGUIO COLORS

Gov says roads could end marijuana trade

House committee travels to Iloilo for drug probe



Among Ed foes tell poll body: Look for funding

Arrest of sons in US devastates Garcia

Entire family in plunder case

Garcias on condo . . .

$765,000 Trump Park Ave.

Held in San Francisco

At large since 2005

Presumed innocent

House defers final vote on right of reply

Dialogue with media

Inherent duty

De Lima opposed, too

Readers advocate

Penalties reduced

Asean rights body historic first but lacks clout

No interference

Moving toward EU-like entity

'Talk shop'

Int'l rights group

Credibility

Promote, protect

Friday 'green day' for GMA

Kyoto Protocol

Task groups

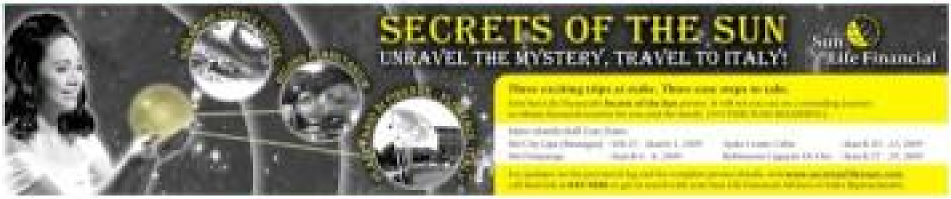
'Met' reopens in June

Late SPORTS

Que slips back to 5th



Aplus
METRO



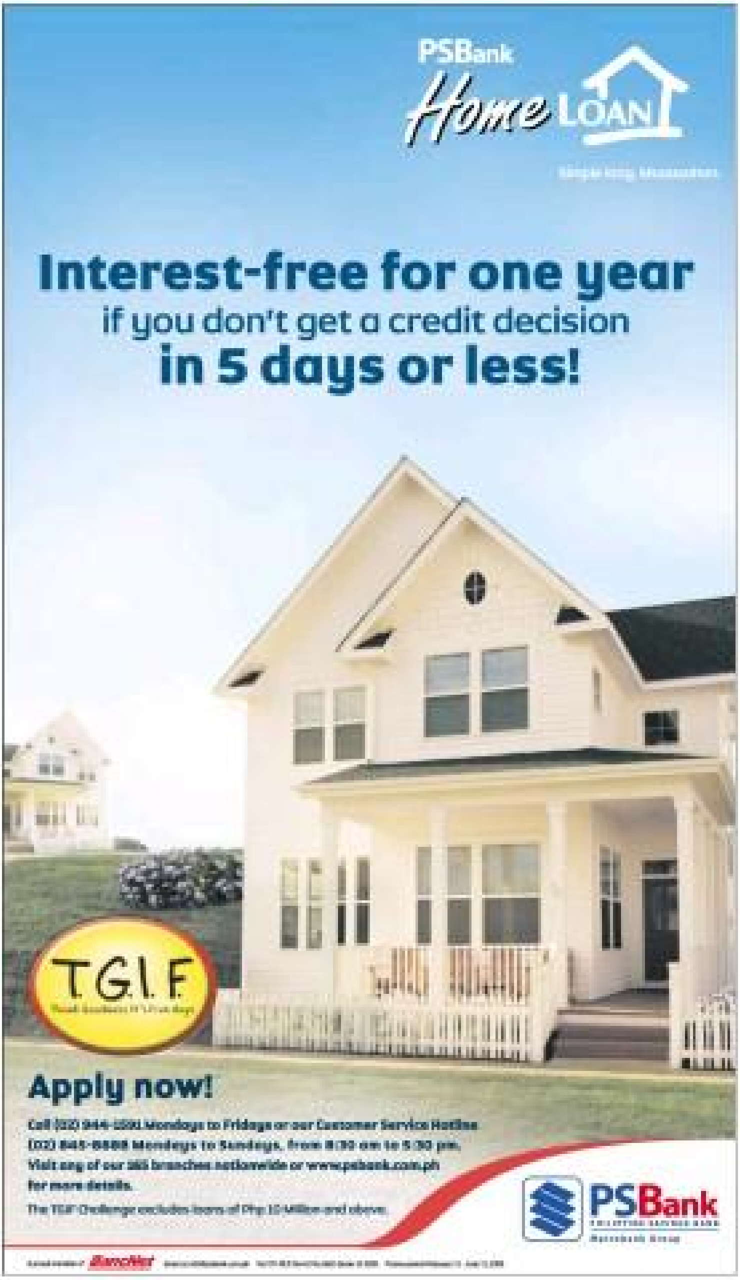
La Vista, LGV folk oppose SM plan

RESIDENTS OF TWO EXCLUSIVE subdivisions are protesting the city council's proposal to allow SM Development Corp to construct a 31-story building in a residential zone in Quezon City.

[illegible]

Firm responds to winner's case

[illegible]



Woman driver apologizes to Amiel's family



GMA boosts Manila cops' 'war room' with P10M donation

MetroBriefs

Woman shot dead

Illegal recruiter jailed

Pastry shop robbed

Mandaluyong fire truck

Cabinet member awash in cash

On Target



Firm ...

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ziga

FBI makes 1st arrest in Stanford fraud

WASHINGTON—THE FBI MADE THE FIRST ARrest in the $8 billion Stanford Financial Group fraud investigation on Thursday, detaining chief investment officer Laura Pendergest-Holt on federal obstruction charges.

The US Justice Department said Pendergest-Holt was to make an initial court appearance before a US magistrate in Houston on Friday after her arrest by FBI agents. The federal criminal probe began in June 2008.

The break could signify that prosecutors are closing in on the group's chief, Allen Stanford, a Texas billionaire with dual US and Antigua Barbuda citizenship who has been a prominent sponsor of cricket, golf, tennis and polo events.

Stanford is already facing civil charges accusing him of orchestrating a "massive" fraud in the sales of $8 billion in high-interest certificates of deposit issued by the Antigua-based Stanford International Bank.

[illegible]



STANFORD

[illegible]

Reuters

Bishop offers apology for Holocaust remarks

ROME—A BISHOP WHOSE RE[illegible]

[illegible]

AFP

Japan factory output in record drop

TOKYO—JAPAN SAID ON FRIDAY that factory output plummeted a record 10 percent last month [illegible]

[illegible]

AFP

WorldBriefs

Hundreds in Bangladesh detained after revolt

DHAKA, Bangladesh—[illegible]

AP

5 top Serbs found guilty of war crimes in Kosovo

[illegible]

NYT

GM loses $30.9B in 2008, asks for more aid

DETROIT—[illegible]

NYT

BE IN TUNE WITH THE FINEST GREEN LIFESTYLE AT

GREEN MEADOWS

Paniqui, Tarlac





AN INAUGURATION & GROUND-BREAKING ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2009 9AM AT THE SITE

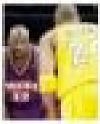
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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Rockets, Lakers rip foes /A21



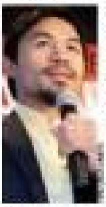
SPORTS

Editor Teodyvic S. Melendres • Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

Pacquiao flies to UK for 'promo' binge

Ring icon says trainer can't change Hatton style

By Francis T.J. Ochoa



PACQUIAO

New-look Burger King battles SLR

Arcilla, Tierro dispute Davis Cup slot

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PSC looks South for talents

By Marc Anthony Reyes



ANATOMY OF A BIRDIE

Sugar Barons widen lead to 10

Zarate ends drought, nails ICTSI title by 3



SPORTSWATCH

DENR derby tomorrow

Tinga youth shootfest on

Tañamor topbills PCSO card

Young solon goes for KO with First Gold

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

Clark cuts short golf comeback of Woods

Rockets, Lakers rip foes



Bikefest in Pangasinan set

Turkeys, Tigers to defend crowns

Do we have sports jobs for them?

ONE GAME AT A TIME





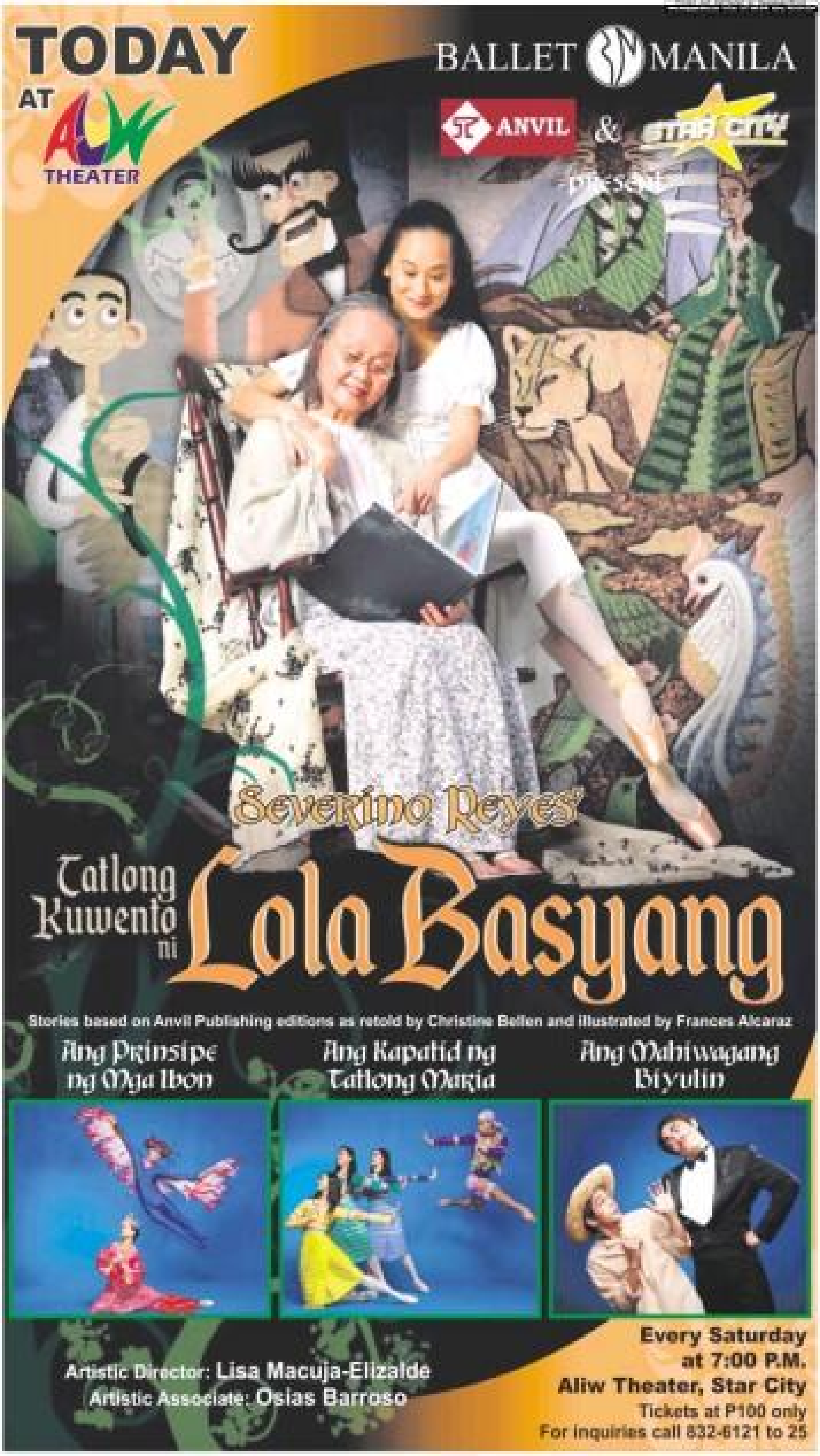
MARTIAL ARTS FUN AT SPORTS CENTRAL





Milo clinics nurture future champs

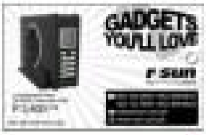




TODAY
AT
ALIW
THEATER
BALLET MANILA
ANVIL
&
STAR CITY
present
Severino Reyes'
Tatlong Kuwento ni
Lola Basyang
Stories based on Anvil Publishing editions as retold by Christine Bellen and illustrated by Frances Alcaraz
Ang Prinsipe ng Mga Ibon
Ang Kapatid ng Tatlong Maria
Ang Mahiwagang Biyulin
Artistic Director: Lisa Macuja-Elizalde
Artistic Associate: Osias Barroso
Every Saturday
at 7:00 P.M.
Aliw Theater, Star City
Tickets at P100 only
For inquiries call 832-6121 to 25

Editor: Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor: Corrie S. Narisma

BUSINESS



Pre-need firms get relief package

INQUIRER MONITOR

About 3.5 million visitors by 2012 (Medium projections, 2009-2012)

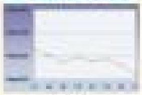


Flexibility in capital build-up, use of real estate assets

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION HAS APproved a basket of regulatory relief seeking to boost the sluggish pre-need plan industry given a rough global environment.

PRE-NEED/B4

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Stocks close lower

STOCKS/B4

GROUP LAMENTS UNDUE ADVANTAGE

Insurance firms hit GSIS encroachment

INSURANCE/B4

Petron posted ₱3.92-B loss in '08 due to volatile prices

Generali-BDO group submits offer for AIG assets in RP

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Stressful questioning can kill heart patients, docs say



ARROYO

If a patient cannot avoid factors such as hypertension and stress, a rupture is certain

May lead to sudden stress

Hidden danger lurking in your legs?

Obstruct circulation

Through injection

Exercising influence

DISCOVER

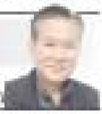


Not being studied yet

No shared histories

Of young doctors and new drugs

MEDICAL FILES



Mastery of trials

Rare mechanism of action

Adequately controlled

Thrift banks still bullish

Business Roundup

Manulife sales up

Lhuillier-Money Gram tieup

Sector expects robust lending growth this year

RP, Bahrain OK expanded air deal

Medusa sets Phase 2 of Co-O expansion

Insurance firms hit GSIS encroachment

From page B1

Pre-need firms get relief package

From page B1

Stocks close ...

From page B1

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

BUSINESS

Citi questions RP's deficit goal

Coco oil exports plunged 68%



CEMEX SUPPORTS SHDA TO BOOST GOV'T HOUSING PROGRAM

Revitalizing BIMP-Eaga trade



Joji Ilagan-Bian



KPMG Centre Inauguration

Hyundai and KPMG make the big move to new headquarters. Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) and KPMG recently inaugurated the KPMG Centre at 6787 Ayala Ave., Makati City, the new home of Hyundai and KPMG in the Philippines. Leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony during the event were (from L-R): Ms. Fe Perez-Agudo, EVP and COO of HARI; Mr. Richard Lee, HARI Chairman Emeritus; Ambassador Choi Joong-Kyung of the Republic of Korea; Councilor Jejomar Erwin Binay, Jr., representing Mayor Jejomar Binay of the City of Makati; Mr. John Harrison, Deputy Chairman of KPMG International; and Mr. Roberto Manabat, Chairman and CEO of KPMG Philippines.

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

PROPERTY

Delivering quality homes as promised



By Charles E. Buban

WITH TOUGH TIMES already hitting the country's property sector, a number of developers are now being forced to scale down if not shelve their previously grandiose business plans.



Visual comfort in your home and office



GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus



Daylighting, visual comfort

Natural lighting

Very important

THE EXCHANGE REGENCY

Building on positive energies

Abundant flow

Minimalist living spaces



THE EXCHANGE Regency

Anchor Land continues winning ways

Delivering quality homes as promised

Pioneer and leader

Comparable

Lifestyle amenities

Team of experts

Attractive

Location, value for money seal deal for buyers of The Beacon

Luxurious features

Value for money

Give the gift of pleasure at Manhattan Garden City

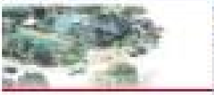








PROPERTY

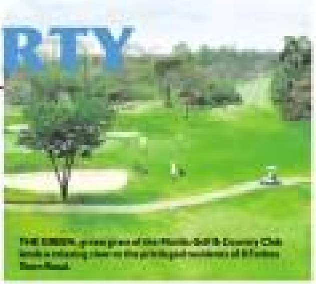


8 FORBES Town Road Golf View Residences is the last prime piece of property in Bonifacio Global City bordering the famed Manila Golf & Country Club.





THIS contemporary-style two-bedroom model unit with a view of the fairways is now ready for viewing at the Forbes Town Center showroom.



THE GREEN, green grass of the Manila Golf & Country Club lends a relaxing view to the privileged residents of 8 Forbes Town Road.

Greener pastures await at 8 Forbes Town Road

MANY ARE DRAWN TO THE EXHILarating modern game of golf and it takes a regular visit to the well-manicured greens to ease one's stress, demand handicap or measure of playing ability. As a rule of thumb, the lower the golfer's handicap, the better the golfer is.

Needless to say, many choose to move and reside next to a greened pasture to pursue their passion for the game. Now here comes Megaworld Corp. of property tycoon Andrew Tan, who intensified a golfer's dream and engineered an imposing residential condominium called 8 Forbes Town Road Golf View Residences. This condo features the longest golf course views.

The 33-storey stunning spectacle built from blue curtain glass and steel rises on the five-hectare commercial hub of Forbes Town Center within the world-class neighborhood of Bonifacio Global City.

"8 Forbes Town Road is a striking landmark as the remaining prime location bordering Manila Golf & Country Club," Megaworld VP for Marketing and Project Head Noli Hernandez shared. "This is the last opportunity for investors to own a lush kilometer view of this highly prized golf course right at the comfort of their own homes." Megaworld is targeting turnover in December 2011.

Everyone's needs are tucked in this luxury condominium. An urban sanctuary is placed at the seventh deck of 8 Forbes Town Road, a paradise of lush flora that opens to the breathtaking backdrop of sprawling golf course and glistening Makati skyline.

Welcome respite

After a tiring activity, the deck, aptly called the pleasure zone, comes as a welcome respite where a host of well-appointed recreational amenities awaits every resident.

The zone is for all ages. One can walk away and plunge into soothing blue waters of the infinity pool that stretches to boundless greenery of the golf course, or recline in the shallow pool designed with water jets. The place has an outdoor spa where one can engage in an invigorating Jacuzzi or a pampering massage.

The landscape and roof gardens are ideal for jogging, while a relaxing path and a tai chi area are also located in place for meditation. A fully equipped state-of-the-art gym is included in the deck where one can work on fitness routines and burn unwanted calories. One can lounge for a quick respite at the gazebo and lawn surround with cascading flowers. And there's a fully padded playroom for the younger guests.

As lucky as its number 8 for an address, 8 Forbes Town Road puts one in a distinct and progressive community inspired by the urban hubs of Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Dream haven

Living at 8 Forbes Town Road is designed by renowned C+A Architects to live a lush, cutting-edge life in the concept of first-class residences. Just at the ground and second levels of Forbes Town Center is a strip of cosmopolitan restaurants offering fine cuisines.

Top caliber schools are a few blocks from home: British, Korean, Chinese, Japanese and American international schools.

Get a glimpse of this dream haven and engage in this world of exciting possibilities—be it for leisure, business, or round of golf.

super LIFESTYLE

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Supervising Editor Pam Pastor

ONE CRAZY THING TO DO THIS WEEKEND



We saw Saw

Not in the mood for the usual weekend hangout? Hold a Saw marathon and hear your friends scream

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Kharen Ramos

MY FRIENDS AND I find every excuse to throw parties. No, we don't need birthdays as an occasion to go crazy.

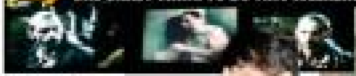
Somebody bought a new board game? Scrabble? Party! One friend needs to be distracted because his prospect hasn't replied to his text message? Rock Band party! Leftover beer from the last party? Beer party? Lingerie party, party, pokemon party, costume party, swimming party, '80s party—we've had all kinds of parties. One time we even held a pokemon party just because we all wanted to eat pokemon.

And last week, because some of us watched Saw V and decided we wanted to watch Saw I to IV, we held a Saw marathon party.

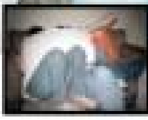
It was fun, it was crazy and we're all surprised some of us

SEE SAW/PAGE C2

ONE CRAZY THING TO DO THIS WEEKEND







We saw Saw

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Ridiculously good burgers

Burger Avenue is the place to be if you want something good, fast—even free



THE RIDICULOUS burger. Are you up to the challenge?



A COZY place for yuppies and students

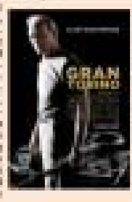
Art of backpacking across Asia

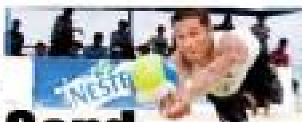
Robert Alejandro documents his travels in his inimitable way



Clint Eastwood as America

In 'Gran Torino,' he's a bigot with a big heart





Sand, surf, and spike

With summer here, welcome back the Nestea Beach Volleyball Circuit



Welcome to the City

[illegible]

BLG Correspondent

[illegible]



SOCIALITE Olivia Palermo [illegible]



FROM the Hills to The City: Whitney Port

[illegible]



HUNKY Australian Jay is Whitney's love interest

Anything but boring

[illegible]





Who can test a new music phone better than a true musician? We let Raimund Marasigan of Sandwich, Pedicab, Cambio, Gaijin and the Eraserheads play with the Nokia 5800 XpressMusic. Here's what he thinks



THE AUTHOR likes the phone's plectrum stylus.

Rocking a new music phone

By Raimund Marasigan



I LEAD A VERY active lifestyle. I play in several bands, travel a lot and my sport of choice is skateboarding. I wanted to see if the Nokia 5800 XpressMusic could keep up with me.

The Nokia 5800 interface is very easy to navigate. Without cracking the manual, getting around the menus is a breeze. Calling is very straightforward but texting needs some customization if you're used to using classic keypads like me.

The phone looks very cool and wins big style points for the plectrum stylus. A regular stylus is also included tucked in the side.

I took the 5800 on a skate session and the 3.2 mp camera was quite handy for basic daytime snapshots and videos for YouTube. But it didn't really cut it when I used it for low-light rock shows.

On the music side, I'm not really a fan of the built-in speakers, but I'm really stoked that Nokia included a mini-jack output. The Nokia 5800 sounded great with headphones and plugged into the car stereo, we rocked the 5800 on a long road trip and back.

Surfing the Web is surprisingly fast. You can use it to check e-mail or Plurk when you're bored. At one radio show, we used it to find lyrics and chords for an impromptu jam.

The phone comes with PC software only and my only concern is that the phone does not sync with the Mac. I just happen to have a Micro SD card reader to transfer media. I hope Nokia comes out with some Mac software soon.

This is not an in-depth review but the Nokia 5800 XpressMusic rocks. I'd get another one if this gets lost or broken.

A Day of Space and Tranquility at Montecito



Families enjoy firsthand the relaxing atmosphere that Montecito's expansive spaces offer.



Tranquility was the order of the day, as visitors spent the afternoon around the wide open gardens.

There is nothing more relaxing than a refreshing view of expansive greenery, the gentle splish-splash of tranquil waters and a day spent with family. Earlier this month, Ayala Land Premier opened Montecito to guests seeking respite in the serene community, with its first ever open house as an official part of NUVALI, a 1,700 hectare masterplanned Southern township destined to be the country's first economically, environmentally and socially sustainable eco-community.

Tranquility was the order of the day, as visitors milled around the wide open gardens surrounding Montecito's two lakes. While an acoustic band serenaded everyone who came to join the fun, a soothing spa party offered a selection of massages to those looking to receive the utmost in pampering. Mind and soul enhancing yoga sessions allowed guests to tune in to themselves sans distractions.

Children were treated to nature-centric activities such as fishing and biking at the greenways, or landscaped parks in-between homes. They also enjoyed RC speedboat racing at one of the lakes.

Everyone capped the day off at the Fiata Tiempo, a grand pavilion where residents can mix, mingle and entertain. Originally built in the 1980s by renowned national architect Leandro Locsin, the structure was the former Yulo house, in which sprawling and expansive spaces pay tribute to the Filipino style. Soon, residents and their guests can enjoy its swimming pool, library, game rooms, function areas, an activity center and spa features.

The food, catered by Ilion, was a tribute to classic Filipino cuisine – fare that mirrors the same warmth, familiarity and comfort that the Montecito lifestyle offers its residents.

The invigorating weekend was a wonderful opportunity for guests to experience firsthand this lifestyle, which promises to tie in the wonders of space and tranquility with central location of being at the heart of NUVALI. Many visitors, wearied out by the hustle and bustle of city living, are certainly agreeable to all that Montecito has to offer.

Those looking to make a new life for themselves amid wide expanses of serene landscape can expect much more from Montecito in 2009. With Ayala Land Premier at the helm of this community's growth, people can expect many more weekends to experience space and tranquility at Montecito.

For inquiries on Montecito, please call 848-5808, email ask@ayalalandpremier.com, or visit www.ayalalandpremier.com.





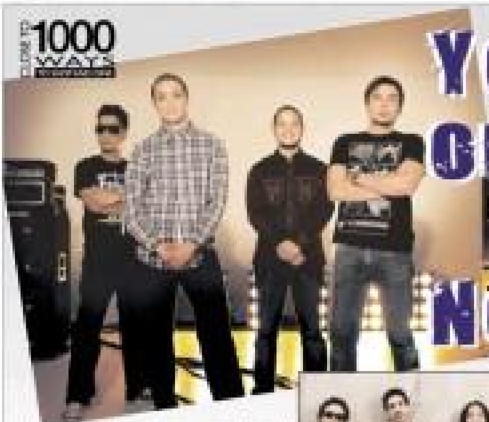
2bU LIFESTYLE



Make your last days in school memorable

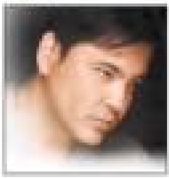
Make small talk with your crush. Reveal a different side of you. Leave a legacy



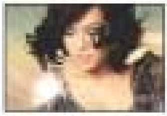


Your Idols onstage at SM City North Edsa







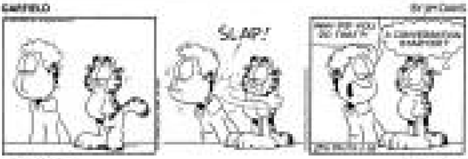


The Block

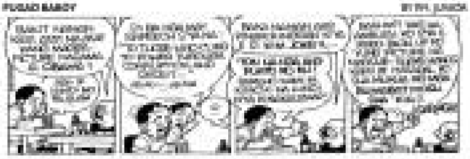
The Annex

The new SM city north edsa

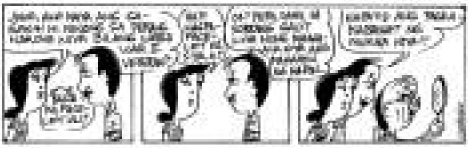








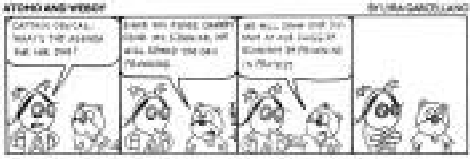


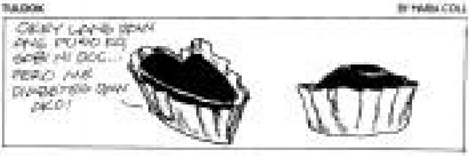








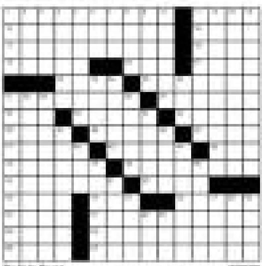


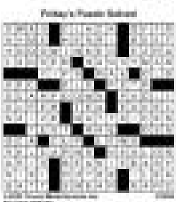






DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

		5		6		1		
			8	5	1			
2								9
	6						7	
5	9						8	4
	3						6	
9								2
			9	1	5			
		1		7		3		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

Make your last days. . .

From page D1

before school ends. If you don't end up together, at least you were able to get to know the person a little bit more and casually say hi the next time, instead of just the usual nodding you used to do.

• **Show your appreciation to at least one professor.**

A token of gratitude, such as a book or a scarf or a pen with the teacher's name engraved on it would deliver the message of how thankful you are for the knowledge the faculty have imparted to you. A simple yet sincere conversation (especially when you don't normally chat with the teacher) or a heartfelt letter can be as touching. Among the many professors you're not a big fan of, there is surely at least one that you highly respect for expertise or brilliance (even if you dread them).

Give advice

• **Be a big brother or a big sister.**

All the years you've spent in college makes you some sort of an expert—at least to the juniors, sophomores and especially the freshmen. Now is the time to share all the knowledge, lessons, tips and secrets you've accumulated. Suggest how to deal with a dreaded professor. Give advice on how to better a yearly senior project. Share with the juniors something that your batch or your club wasn't able to accomplish, and recommend how they can do things differently next year. Enlighten and excite the freshmen by enumerating all the fun, challenging and memorable activities they should prepare for.

• **Make your mark and leave a legacy.**

So what if you lost in the student council elections? You can still make a difference or an impact, even with the littlest actions. You can pass your old books to the juniors. You can donate your old uniform to a public school. Or you can gather your friends and collect books that you can donate to your library. You don't really need to be in a high position to do something good for your school, your schoolmates or any [illegible].

• **Make someone happy.**

Forget your friends—you make their day whenever you share your food or crack a joke.

Consider the security guard, the janitor, that person repeatedly crushing on you, the nerd or the loser as the object of your kindness. A little gift, a little attention or a little chitchat can give the biggest impact sometimes. You can have projects, such as giving gifts to the school personnel, visiting a community with 10 freshmen, and writing thank-you notes to 20 [illegible].

• **Bond with your batchmates.**

You can have an out-of-town trip or a sleepover, a trip to the movie house (after classes, of course) or a [illegible] games during break time. Make sure you include those that you don't normally hang out with, so you can widen your circle. You might even discover how awesome and interesting some people are and regret you never really spent time with them earlier. And while you're at it, try to fix your broken relationships as well. Forgive the mean girls and the bullies. Reconnect with that friend you drifted away from ever since she confirmed how she also liked the hunk you were crushing on. Be civil with your enemies. End this chapter of your life positively with more friends instead of more enemies.

• **Surprise others.**

Do something people don't expect from you. Show a side that they haven't seen yet. If you're the class clown, reveal your serious and philosophical self. If others see you as the stiff, geeky perfectionist, let loose and show them your inner wild child.

Try to have a little more fun these last few days of school, but don't do anything too wild that can endanger you or your chances of graduating.

• **Take pictures—lots of pictures.**

Always bring your digital camera with you (and a spare battery too) so that you never miss out on any Kodak moments with your classmates. Make sure you have snapshots of the whole [illegible] of every important part of the school: the classroom, the cafeteria, the laboratory, the gym, even the teachers' room. Go click-crazy and make sure that you're in the pictures too. Having these photos as a souvenir of your fun and challenging college days is something priceless.

E-mail the author at [illegible]@yahoo.com

Shape up for summer

Ditch the venti Starbucks Frapuccino, for starters





By Bianca Consunji

Exercise

Diet

2BU LIFESTYLE



2BU EXCLUSIVE

Jonas Brothers Up Close

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Finding a home at Somerset Salcedo

"IT'S QUITE HARD FOR US TO leave Somerset as we have good memories of our Somerset family. We had a great time and an amazing experience in the Philippines."

In 2008 Yossi Oon and her family had to move from their home in Jakarta to Manila on account of her husband's long-term assignment. [illegible] about the temporary relocation to the Philippines, she went on a familiarization trip to find a place that will serve as home to her, her husband and their daughter, Natasha. And this was when they discovered Somerset.

A hidden treasure in quiet Salcedo Village, Somerset Salcedo Makati is a 30-storey property that provides a panoramic view of the breathtaking city skyline. With 150 fully-furnished serviced residences showcasing spacious living areas, comprehensive kitchen facilities, warm and cozy bedrooms plus international service standards, Somerset Salcedo Makati enables residents to settle easily into their new living environment. Apart from its selection of apartments, recreational facilities are also available for leisure periods spent indoors. The property features a well-equipped fitness centre, sauna, residents' lounge, children's playroom, heated swimming pool, Jacuzzi and a delight for little golfer Natasha Oon - an indoor putting green.

Going beyond the expectations of what you may experience in a typical hotel, Somerset Salcedo Makati is your home in the heart of the city for those [illegible]



THE Oon family with Somerset Salcedo Makati Residence manager Juliet Ramos.

Information about Somerset Salcedo Makati and other Ascott International serviced residences in Manila, contact Central Reservations Office at (63-2) 729 8888.

Feel at home, feed a home



THIS YEAR, THE LINDEN Suites is taking its social responsibility project to a higher level. Their human resources department has partnered with the sales and marketing department and other service providers, [illegible] thereby making it a larger corporate undertaking. Through sales and marketing's "Feel at Home, Feed a Home" promo in December 2008, a commitment was made to donate an amount to the foundation for every room night accommodation availed.

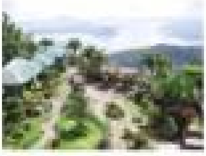
Proceeds from the month-long promo, supplemented by the voluntary contributions from their associates, shall form part of what they will be donating to Asian Love the Little Children Foundation Inc. to support their operational requirements and/or projects.

Guests, staff and directors of the hotel pooled together resources for the benefit of the Foundation.



1ST TLC PARTNER IN ZAMBOANGA CITY

[illegible]



Aiming high in Tagaytay

FOUNDED IN 1988, WITH ONLY A FEW hundred pesos earned from a sari-sari store, Mrs. Elvira Marquez Rigueros managed to put up a mini carinderia with only two tables situated in front of San Vicente Parish Church in Biñan, Laguna. Arming the carinderia with hard boiled eggs, tomatoes, rice and ulam wrapped in banana leaves, the binalot in Biñan began.

Day and night she worked hard because she knew this carinderia is a very good start to venture more into food production. From 1993 to 2008, RSM [illegible] branched its way from Biñan Laguna to Calamba Laguna, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, [illegible], Dasmariñas Cavite, GMA Cavite and Carmona Cavite. Aside from these restaurants, she has also a Villa Elvira Resort situated in San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna, and RSM Mini Mart in GMA Cavite. And as a gift to herself, Mrs. Rigueros opened a restaurant situated atop a cliff seeing the scenic view of the beautiful Taal Volcano, truly a restaurant paradise called RSM Seafood Garden Restaurant Tagaytay.

2007 was a fabulous year for Mrs. Rigueros, she opened a restaurant at [illegible] Drive, Real Calamba City under the name of RSM Lutong Bahay Seafoods Garden Restaurant.

As of 2008 Mrs. Rigueros still has two ongoing projects in Tagaytay City Cavite, a "Bali [illegible] Seafoods Restaurant" and the other one is the "Bali Village Hotel, Resort and Spa". Mrs. Rigueros has projected that these will soon be finished and operated at the soonest possible time.

Something yummy, something new at Prince Albert

[illegible]

Provincial Hotels Directory

[illegible]

Jonas Brothers Up Close



Watch the Jonas Brothers in 3d!

Tours, Leisure & Chow

A.Venue Hotel Suites' Wellness Room Packages

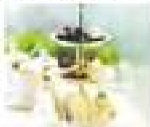


MARCO POLO HOTELS RENEWS DAVAO, PHILS MANAGEMENT PACT



How to make kids eat their vegetables

It's high time for high tea



Blackbeard's Seafood Island





LEA SALONGA performs during the awarding ceremonies of the Voice of Leadership awards at the RCBC plaza.

Ateneo student wins leadership elocution contest

By Sorro Mae C. Perez

THE RECENT VOBAO VOICE of Leadership Elocution Contest, held at the RCBC Plaza, saw 12 high school students representing their schools in a public-speaking contest with the theme: "I am a leader. I can make a difference."

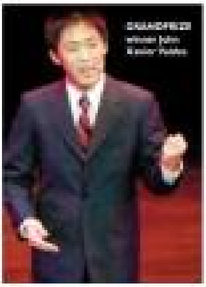
[illegible] Voice of Leadership project aims to discover and hone potential youth leaders. Of the 12 national finalists, John Xavier B. Valdes, a senior from Ateneo de Manila High School, emerged victorious.

He won a trophy and a cash prize worth P50,000. First runner-up [illegible] Isabelle [illegible] of [illegible] College got P40,000, while Christian [illegible] of La Salle Greenhills bagged P30,000 as second runner-up.

Their respective schools also received the same amount. Moreover, each of the 12 finalists received P10,000 plus a Voice of Leadership medal.

Other participating schools included Assumption College, Colegio San Agustin, De La Salle Santiago Zobel School, Saint Jude Catholic School, St. Paul University-Quezon City, St. Scholastica's College-Manila, [illegible] School, University of the Philippines Integrated School, and [illegible] Montessori Center Inc.

Hosted by Voice of Leadership official spokesperson Chin Tia, the finals night also featured performances by the Playshop kids and internationally-acclaimed star Lea Salonga.



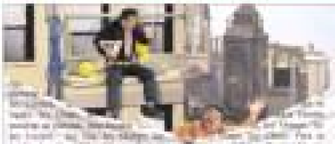
GRAND PRIZE winner John Xavier Valdes

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Where have all the Asian-Americans gone on 'AI'?** /F4

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Ritz P. Aurelio

SATURDAY *Special*





Jonas Brothers: No Disney brats



THE JONAS BROTHERS. Their latest album earned a four-star review from Rolling Stone magazine.

LOS ANGELES—"I'M SORRY," said some folks, with matching commiserating facial expression, when we told them that we were watching "Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience" and interviewing the popular siblings.

But, with their last album earning a four-star review from Rolling Stone and the three lads coming off as sensible and well-grounded, interviewing them wasn't such a chore. The pop-rock trio, the latest to be churned out by Disney's star-making factory, are no brats.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

Nick, 16, noted: "We try to incorporate things about being a gentleman in our lyrics. Our mom raised us to have good manners. She always said, 'I'm raising you to eat at the White House.' We've done that now (they performed for First Daughters, Malia and Sasha, at the White House recently). It's amazing. We're young men, and we're going to learn a lot more in our lives! We're excited about the journey."

Kevin, 21, added: "It's also about stopping and appreciating it all. When we were on the Grammy stage recently, we looked out into the crowd and realized we were playing for Paul McCartney. We couldn't believe it! You have to learn how to enjoy it and know that this is a blessing. You're living so many people's dreams."

Something to smile about

Joe, 19, shared, "We know that, right now, so many people need hope; they need something to smile about. That's our whole deal—that we can be a positive light during the dark times."

Creative ploys

JONAS/F3





"JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3D EXPERIENCE." Like a musical diary.

Jonas Brothers: No Disney brats

Relationships

Thoughts...

Ava Gardner and the amazing roles that got away

By Bobi Cervantes



GARDNER. Missed roles that hit too close to home.

RECENTLY, I READ A RATHER EXTENSIVE biography of Ava Gardner, one of Hollywood's greatest beauties ever. The [illegible] native was even more breathtaking in person. She was a shapely woman who had high cheekbones, green eyes, alabaster skin and auburn hair.

It's no wonder why she was the favorite of Hollywood's photographers and cinematographers. It is said that she had no bad side, unless she got off on the wrong side of the bed (then, she'd let the world know that she was in no mood to mess around with anyone). She could move like a sailor, but walked with innate grace and confidence.

Thirst for knowledge

However, despite Gardner's legendary beauty, she always felt inferior. Artie Shaw, her second husband, made her feel intellectually inadequate, despite her thirst for knowledge. Gardner was a backwoods girl, and she never forgot it!

As a result, she felt that her stellar career was only invented by Hollywood and thought she didn't really know how to act. After many years in the business, though, she learned the trade and was looked up to by directors. Nevertheless, she underestimated herself as an actress and turned down roles she thought were beyond her capability.

For example, she turned down "Love Me or Leave Me" because she suspected her voice would be dubbed (again) by a better singer. After all, her voice was dubbed in "Show Boat" after she was made to believe that MGM would utilize her own voice.

So, Ava passed up the musical biography of Ruth Etting because she was afraid the studio would again "insult" her by using someone else's singing voice. The role went to Doris Day, who was in the process of transforming herself from an All-American beauty into a sexy dramatic actress. Day reaped great critical acclaim for her performance in the Etting film bio.

Screen life

One wonders how much more exciting the nightclub performer's screen life would have been in the hands of the sizzling and fiery diva, who had already received a well-deserved Best Actress nomination for "Mogambo."

She was also offered the role of an aging, alcoholic star in Tennessee Williams' "Sweet Bird of Youth," but the great beauty thought that her reputation as a heavy drinker was too close to the role of a promiscuous, drug-dependent star, so she turned it down as well. Later, she expressed regret because Geraldine Page "attacked" the role that cast her opposite Paul Newman and earned her a Best Actress Oscar nomination.

In the late '60s, Ava was offered the role of Mrs. Robinson, an erotic matron who seduces her daughter's young boyfriend, portrayed by newcomer Dustin Hoffman in "The Graduate." Again, she felt that the sexy but aging character was too close to home, so she also turned down the role that went to Anne Bancroft.

Thoughts for leaders

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Horwath

HERE ARE FAMOUS quotes to ponder over.

"The War Office kept three sets of figures: One was to mislead the public, another to mislead the Cabinet, and the third, to mislead itself."—Herbert Henry Asquith, liberal statesman

"Vote for the man who promises least; he'll be the least disappointing. ... A political leader must look over his shoulder all the time to see if the boys are still there. If they aren't there anymore, he's no longer a political leader."—Bernard Baruch, American financier and presidential adviser

"The enemies of freedom do not argue; they shout, and they shoot. ... A man may build himself a throne of bayonets, but he cannot sit on it."—Dean Inge, English writer

Conscience

"If civil authorities legislate for or allow anything that's contrary to that order and, therefore, contrary to the will of God, neither the laws made nor authorizations can be binding on the consciences of the citizens, since God has more right to be obeyed than men. ... The social progress, order, security and peace of each country are necessarily connected with the social progress, order, security and peace of all other countries."—Pope John XXIII

THOUGHTS/F2

Where have all the Asian-Americans gone on 'AI?'



By Nestor U. Torre

Winnowing process

Past editions

Strong batch



Cruising the Philippine seas

STREET SMART

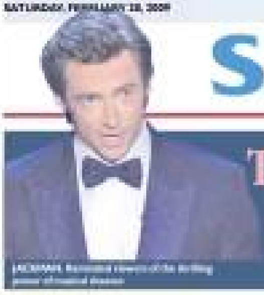


Mandy Navasero

Tourism triangle



SATURDAY Special



JACKMAN: Reminded viewers of the thrilling power of musical theater

The Oscars go global

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR MANY YEARS NOW, THE Oscars' annual awards show have delighted and excited hundreds of millions of viewers all over the world. The US Academy Awards must be doing something right—right? Uh, not really.

For the past few years, the film awards' viewership has been going down, prompting the TV special's producers to spend sleepless nights worrying about its future prospects.

The results of their creative fretting were up there on the TV screen for all to see last Feb. 23, when the latest edition of the Academy Awards was shown on local screens.

The most obvious change was the special's choice of host. For a long time, zany comedians like Billy Crystal and Chris Rock have been the favored choices, because their opening spiels assured a lighthearted start for the awards proceedings.

Production numbers

This time around, however, the show's producers chose film and musical theater star, Hugh Jackman, to host the Oscars' awards rites. When we heard about the shift, we figured that, being a total entertainer, Jackman would be given some big production numbers that would enliven the show in a way that even the delightfully versatile Crystal couldn't manage.

True enough, Jackman did exploit a couple of great song and dance numbers that made this year's Oscar show genuinely exciting and entertaining. Jackman's stellar performance also reminded viewers of the thrilling power of musical theater, which the electronic media can't match.

On the other hand, when it came to Jackman's spiels, they were occasionally lacking in zing and sting. Well, we can't have everything! Personally, we like Jackman's performance to the show, despite its occasional low points.

Another bright idea was to have five past winners in each acting category talk about this year's finalists. Starting with the Best Supporting Actress category, this had an unusually strong effect on both the finalists and the show's viewers. The finalists reacted very emotionally to the praises heaped on them by the past winners, and the personal touch was thoroughly winning.

Varied voices

Less intended but also quite striking was the distinctively "global" turn that this year's Oscars took. Best Picture finalist and eventual winner, "Slumdog Millionaire," set the pace with its all-Indian setting and characters, but it was by no means the only "foreign" element in the show.

In other categories, winners from different countries—England, China, Japan, Australia and Spain—added their varied voices and accents to the increasing chorus of gratitude that made this year's show

THE OSCARS G2



RIVERA.

Ariel Rivera, Rayver Cruz unveil gems in new albums

IF YOU VISIT YOUR FAVORITE RECORD [illegible]

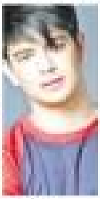
[illegible]

Makeovers

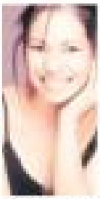
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Terpsichorean flair

[illegible]



CRUZ.



BLANCO.

The Oscars...

From page G1

[illegible]

Favorite romantic films extolled



REDFORD AND STREISAND: Opposites attract in "The Way We Were."

Flashbacks

Evolution of love

More benefits from Kangen

WORD OF MOUTH



Balance

NOW SHOWING

Reality check for John Lloyd, Sarah



CRUZ AND GERONIMO: More comfortable with each other in second movie pairing.

"You Changed My Life"

Change

Dilemma

No easy answers in 'The Reader'

Point of view



WINSLET: Painfully honest performance.

Sexual scenes

Piolo's simple joys



PASCUAL: "Age is just a number."

Bad habits

Privacy

Tribute to Filipino coffee farmers

MONTAGE



JAYA (SECOND FROM RIGHT): Performs at the launch of Nescafé Classic First Pick at Market! Market!

'Imagine'

Sun Broadband Wireless

Viva Cinema Channel

'You're The Inspiration'

'World View'

Movies on TV

Iran Film Week

Assagio Italia

ETC shows

'Looking Beyond'

Park shows

More benefits

Machine

Benefits